Excavations undertaken by ASI

5086. SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR:
SHRI DEVI PRASAD SINGH:

Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have prepared a list of excavations undertaken by the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) and have finalised a detailed report on these excavations; and

(b) if so, the major sites of excavations and how many of them date-back to the 1950s, date-wise and site-wise?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) and (b) The information is being collected and would be placed on the Table of the House.

Involvement of ASI employees in smuggling of precious idols

5087. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether some precious stone idols from South India dating back to 15th and 16th century on sale in the capital were recently seized by CBI in a fourth such incident during the last six months and out of them, three relate to idols from South India;

(b) whether Government have critically analysed the involvement of officers from Archaeological Survey of India team in this illegal trade;

(c) whether Government have since apprehended the smugglers involved in these incidents; and

(d) if not, the latest progress of the cases?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) As per the information given by the Central Bureau of Investigation, two registered antiquities and nine registered stone idols from South India were seized by them in Delhi on 03-01-2002 and 11.03.2002 respectively during the last six months.

(b) the Central Bureau of Investigation have registered cases against both the firms M/s Natesan Antiquarts, New Delhi and M/s Artefacts, Bangalore. However, involvement of the officers of the Archaeological Survey of India have not been found so far.